



*Salamanca was an important city all along the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The University of Salamanca was well known in Europe and many students came from all over Spain and its territories to study.*

*The city was divided into two main groups, that is why they were called Los Bandos. Even today we have a square in the city with that name.*

*These two bands belonged to the parish of San Benito and to the parish of Santo Tomé. María de Monroy, a widow, belonged to Santo Tomé parish. Her house still stands today, next to the church. Her three young sons were at home to protect her. One day the three boys went to play handball against other families' members...*

*The Manzanos, The Fonseca, the Anaya and some other families belonged to the San Benito parish, which was opposite to the Main Square of Salamanca. They were strong and they hated the members of the Santo Tomé parish.. In between there was a piece of land where grass grew because nobody stepped on it: the Corrillo Plaza.*

*The popular ball game started, but two rival players argued, and fought. Finally the brothers Gómez and Alonso Manzano took out their swords and killed the two sons of María Monroy, Pedro and Luís.*

*That day and the next day, María was sad, but she didn't cry. That night she gathered twenty armed servants and left the city to hunt the Manzano boys and kill them both.*

*After a month of inquiries they caught up with the villains. They had gone as far as Portugal. When they were sleeping in an inn, in Viseu, they were apprehended and there was no mercy. The heads of Gómez and Alonso Manzano were cut off. María took them with her left hand and brought them back to Salamanca.. María lay the heads on the tombs of her children.*

*Since then, she was called María the Brave, María la Brava.*

*The End*

## PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND

### *“María the Brave”*



*The main square (“Plaza Mayor”) in Salamanca is considered the city centre. Many tourists come to Salamanca to see it.*

*The Bandos square. It is named after the two existing bands and the rivalry between them.*

*It has got many noble buildings.*



*San Benito and Santo Tomé’s parishes where the two families belonged.*

*María the Brave’s house is very near the Main Square (“Plaza Mayor”) in Salamanca.*





John was born at Sahagún, in northwestern Spain, in the fifteenth century. He became a parish priest and felt attracted to the poverty and simple lifestyle. He enrolled in classes at the great Catholic University of Salamanca and he became famous as a preacher.

His beautiful homilies or sermons brought about a change in the people of Salamanca. St. John succeeded in ending many bitter fights among families. He even persuaded people to forgive one another. His remains are preserved in the cathedral of Salamanca and he is honored as the patron of the city.

Miracles were attributed to Father John's intervention, before and after his death. One occurred in Salamanca when a small

It is very well known in Salamanca, that a child fell into a well by accident. The well was deep and narrow and he couldn't get out. His mother was shouting and crying and there were a lot of people round it. A priest was walking near there and went to the mouth of the well to see what was happening. He took off the belt of his habit but it was too short and the boy couldn't hold it. Then the water rised and the child got near the top so his mother could hold the child's hand. He was safe and happy.



*The End*

## PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND

### *“The Yellow Well”*



*Plate which commemorates the exact place where the legend and miracle took place.*



*Saint John of Sahagún  
(current Patron Saint  
of the city).*



*The Street of the Yellow Well,  
where the saint saved the life of  
a child who had fallen into a  
well by accident.*

### *SOME DRAWINGS ABOUT THE LEGEND...*



# The Cave of Salamanca



Satan himself taught fortune telling, palm reading, spells and black magic to 7 students for 7 years.

Some say he took on the form of the sacristán (caretaker) of the ruined church during the lessons, others a hand on a chair, still others a male goat. However he dressed himself, all of the accounts agree on the students' tuition: one human soul. At the end of the 7 years, so the story goes, the students drew lots to see which of them would settle the bill by spending the rest of his life in the cave of Salamanca - in service to Satan.

The Marques de Villena was chosen to stay with the demon (or the schoolmaster). Using the tricks that he had learned for evil, hid in a vat of wastewater from the cave, and made them believe that he had made himself invisible.



The Marques left the vat when the demon had gone, and escaped from the cave. But, on leaving, he lost his shadow, which could have betrayed his flight, leaving it inside the cave.



The End

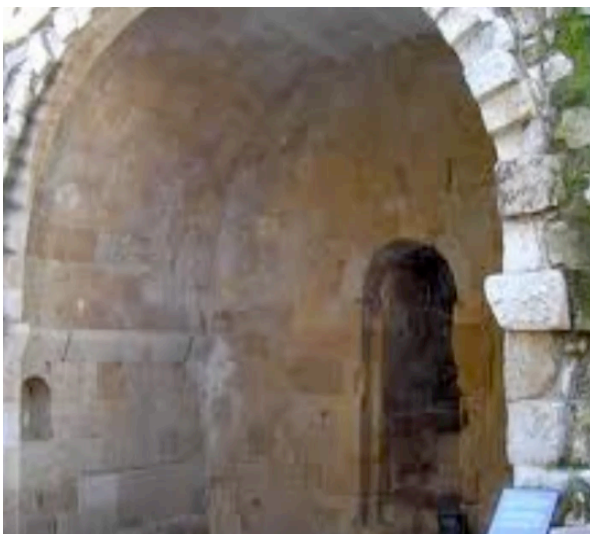
## PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND

### *“The Cave of Salamanca”*



*Salamanca is a very historical city with many great buildings like the Main Square (Plaza Mayor). Its University is one of the most important in Spain.*

*There are many students at Salamanca's University, but the students from the legend had special lessons.*



*The cave of Salamanca was only the crypt of the Church of San Cebrían, a church that would later be destroyed in the late sixteenth century.*